

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 AID-20 CCO-00

FBO-01 NIC-01 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SY-04 SCS-03 DRC-01 /127 W
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O 042120Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3294

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BL

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: USDAO IR 6 808 0143 74 DATED 4 JUNE

1. ALTHOUGH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN LA PAZ, SUCRE AND COCHABAMBA ARE STILL ON STRIKE, THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO ONE INVOLVING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE RECTOR OF UMSA, A FALANGISTA, WHO DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT UMSA LAST WEEK CALLED IN A GROUP OF ARMED FALANGE TOUGHS TO DISPERSE THE STUDENTS. THE STUDENTS HAVE DROPPED OTHER DEMANDS UNRELATED TO THE UNIVERSITY SITUATION, SUCH AS THE REOPENING OF THE WORKERS CENTRAL, CANCELLATION OF THE GAS SALES CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL, AND OTHER HIGHLY POLITICIZED THEMES. FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT, ONE COULD DEDUCE THAT STIMULATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE STRIKE FROM NON-UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS (I.E., ALLEGEDLY ELEMENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES) HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

2. THE MUTINY AT THE NCO SCHOOL IN COCHABAMBA WAS NOT A BIG AFFAIR AND WAS RAPIDLY CRUSHED. OFFICIALLY, THE MILITARY

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DENY THAT ANY SUCH THING TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, ALL POLICE

AND MILITARY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE ON FULL ALERT AND CONFINED TO BARRACKS IN VIEW OF THE PLOTTING DISCOVERED LAST WEEK AND THE INVESTIGATIONS THAT ARE PROCEEDING THEREFROM.

3. LABOR UNIONS GRUMBLE ABOUT THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE MAJOR MINES, AND ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OF SOME RECENT STRIKES, BUT IN GENERAL ARE QUIET.

4. WE BELIEVE THE DISSIDENT MILITARY ELEMENTS WHO WERE PLOTTING, PERHAPS WITH OUTSIDE HELP, MAY HAVE HAD THEIR PLANS DISRUPTED BY GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, AT LEAST IN PART. CONTINUED PLOTTING PROBABLY WILL BE CONDITIONED BY GOB COUNTER MEASURES. FAILING SUCH COUNTERMEASURES, WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE AN INCREASE IN STUDENT AND LABOR AGITATION DESIGNED TO BRING THE CURRENT SITUATION TO A HEAD AND INVITE INTERVENTION. AS IT IS, THE SITUATION IS FAIRLY TENSE, BUT APPARENTLY UNDER GOB CONTROL. NEVERTHELESS, IT BEARS CLOSE WATCHING AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT SITUATION DAILY UNTIL PRESENT TENSIONS DISSIPATED.
BREWIN

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